

WASHINGTON TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE

BRIEFING PAPER

Prepared for the
November 2004 TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING

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Reviewed by: Charlie Howard, Strategic Planning & Programming Director
Approved by: Paula Hammond, Chief of Staff

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this discussion will be to summarize the emerging directions from the first phase of the Washington Transportation Plan (WTP) update which culminated in the Commission's October 19th meeting "Sharing What We've Learned." The presentation will describe the next phase of the update: the Commission's role, a timeline (see attachment A), and a general workplan for concluding the update.

ACTION/OUTCOME:

Mr. Howard will seek conceptual endorsement of the results from Phase 1 analysis and outreach which are emerging as a number of proposed "areas of targeted investment." The proposed areas of targeted investment will be further developed in Phase 2 and become part of the Commission's prioritized investment proposal to the Legislature in 2007.

WTP information is available for use in an early action revenue discussion request to the Legislature in 2005 (addressed by Commission Agenda Item # 15 "New Revenue Scenarios").

BACKGROUND:

The WTP is a blueprint for transportation programs and investment, adopted by the Transportation Commission and forming the policy and long-range plan for the state's transportation system. The WTP covers all modes of Washington's transportation system: roadways, ferries, public transportation, aviation, freight rail, passenger rail, marine ports and navigation, bicycles and pedestrians. The WTP is required by state and federal law to be regularly updated. The Commission is scheduled to adopt the update currently underway in 2005 and will cover the period 2007-2026 and will be the basis for a 10-year investment proposal to the Legislature for 2007.

The WTP update has been framed along 10 strategic issues:

- System Preservation
- Safety
- Transportation Access
- Moving Freight
- Strong Economy and Jobs
- Health and the Environment
- Bottlenecks and Chokepoints
- System Efficiencies
- Building Future Visions
- Funding and Regional Governance

Phase 1 of the update has developed and analyzed data about the transportation system and its use, including current and expected future conditions, demand for the movement of people and goods, and the effects of the system on the economy and the environment.

DISCUSSION:

Directions for possible statewide policies, statewide programs, and state projects are emerging from Phase 1 analysis of these strategic issues and discussions with others. Staff have encapsulated these directions into a number of proposed “areas of targeted investment” as a starting point for discussion (see attachment B).

WSDOT is seeking conceptual endorsement of these proposed areas of targeted investment from the Commission and of proposed work plan for Phase 2. The proposed areas will be further developed and refined to form the basis of a prioritized investment proposal as part of the updated WTP.

RECOMMENDATION:

Conceptual endorsement of the proposed areas of targeted investment and of proposed work plan for Phase 2.

For further information, contact: (Elizabeth Robbins, Planning Manager, 360.705.7371).

Proposed WTP Areas of Targeted Investment by Issue Area

These are a starting point for discussions. They are derived from Phase 1 data analysis and emerging directions.

Type of Action

Preservation

General aviation airport land use encroachment program	Policy Development
Shortline Railroad Preservation Policy	Policy Development
Tribal transportation needs assessment	Policy Development
Alaskan Way Viaduct replacement	Capital Program Proposal
SR 520 Bridge replacement	Capital Program Proposal
Concrete pavement rehabilitation	Capital Program Proposal
Replacement of narrow bridges and approaches	Capital Program Proposal
Unstable slope/electrical/drainage rehabilitation	Capital Program Proposal
Local roadway pavement and bridge rehabilitation	Capital Program Proposal
General aviation pavement rehabilitation	Capital Program Proposal
Increased funding for bus replacement	Capital Program Proposal
Park and ride lot preservation	Capital Program Proposal

Safety

Improved Safety Data and Sharing	Policy Development
Behavioral Programs	Operating Program Proposal
Railroad trespassing reduction	Operating Program Proposal
Pedestrian safety program	Operating/Capital Program Proposal
Bicycle Safety Program	Operating/Capital Program Proposal
Motorcycle Safety Program	Operating/Capital Program Proposal
Rural two-lane roadway safety	Capital Program Proposal
Cross-over protection	Capital Program Proposal
General Aviation Airport Safety	Capital Program Proposal

Transportation Access

Strategy on Elderly Transportation	Policy Development
Strategy on Rural Isolation	Policy Development
Role of State in Providing Basic Access	Policy Development
Strategies for innovative transit service (suburban, rural, elderly)	Policy Development
State policy on intercity transportation	Policy Development
Funding for Demand Response Service for transit and non-profit	Operating Program Proposal
Improved coordination between services	Operating Program Proposal
Completing Trip Planner	Operating Program Proposal

Economy/Jobs

Transportation needs of industry clusters	Policy Development
Develop 2010 Olympics investment program	Operating/Capital Program Proposal
Targeted economic development program	Capital Program Proposal

Moving Freight

Policy on short line rail preservation	Policy Development
Complete CVISN	Operating/Capital Program Proposal
Highway freight bottlenecks (urban congestion, I-90 Snoqualmie Pass, border crossing)	Operating/Capital Program Proposal

Maintain the Columbia/Snake River System	Operating/Capital Program Proposal
All weather roadway system program	Capital Program Proposal
Air cargo routes to SeaTac and Boeing Field	Capital Program Proposal
Complete freight corridors (SR 167, SR 509, SR 395, SR 18)	Capital Program Proposal
Rail Capacity Expansion	Capital Program Proposal
Health and the Environment	
Policy on analyzing secondary and cumulative impacts	Policy Development
Greenhouse gas transportation strategy	Policy Development
Strategy on diesel emission reduction	Policy Development
Improved habitat connectivity planning with transportation planning	Policy Development
Expand safe routes to schools program	Capital Program Proposal
Focus paths and trails investment (transit access, school access, young and old safety)	Capital Program Proposal
Expanded use of watershed mitigation approach	Capital Program Proposal
Expanded stormwater runoff control and treatment programs	Capital Program Proposal
System Efficiency	
Strategy for in-vehicle technology interaction with transportation infrastructure	Policy Development
System Pricing Strategy	Policy Development
Commitment to basic maintenance and operations	Operating Program Proposal
Expanded use of information technology	Operating Program Proposal
Expanded use of advanced communications for customers	Operating Program Proposal
Expanded Travel Conservation Approaches	Operating Program Proposal
Strategy for closer integration between roadway and transit operations	Operating Program Proposal
WSF system configuration proposal	Operating/Capital Program Proposal
Transit Expansion within corridors for peak period efficiency gains	Capital Program Proposal
Point specific efficiency improvements	Capital Program Proposal
Bottlenecks and Chokepoints	
Expansion of operational programs	Operating Program Proposal
Bottleneck and chokepoint improvement capital investment program	Capital Program Proposal
Regional funding for corridor expansion	Capital Program Proposal
Future Visions	
Develop pricing strategy	Policy Development
Transportation funding strategy for alternative fuels	Policy Development
Program to identify and evaluate emerging futures technologies and proposals	Policy Development
Strategy for Intercity Passenger Rail System Expansion	Policy Development/Capital Program Proposal
ITS development plan	Operating Program Proposal

Proposed WTP Phase II Work Plan

